

# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## PROTECTING OUR WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE



Governor Whitmer is committed to defending our Great Lakes, mitigating the impacts of climate change on our communities, and creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs in industries of the future. She understands that the health of our economy is inextricably linked to the health of our people and our planet. Since taking office, she has invested more resources into water infrastructure than the previous 5 years combined. These investments support good-paying jobs and ensure every parent can give their kid a glass of drinking water and know that it's safe. She also launched the MI Healthy Climate Plan to move all sectors of our economy to carbon neutral by 2050 and ensure marginalized communities impacted by climate change will benefit from our energy transition. The Governor has made critical investments in our parks, trails, and public lands to create jobs, boost surrounding economies, and ensure that all families can enjoy "Pure Michigan."

### PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER

- Enforced the strongest Lead and Copper Rule for drinking water supplies in the country.
- Established health-based drinking water standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemicals in our drinking water supplies.
- Partnered with Attorney General Nessel to hold PFAS polluters accountable for their contamination.
- Limited the purchasing of products containing PFAS from state procurement.



*"In Michigan, our waters literally define us. We're surrounded by the extraordinary Great Lakes, home to 21% of the world's fresh surface water, support millions of jobs, and provide drinking water and recreation opportunities to tens of millions of families. I will always protect our waters—source to tap—for generations to come."*

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

### ENSURING TRANSPARENCY

- Created the Office of the Clean Water Public Advocate and the Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate to elevate the concerns of residents and investigate complaints related to drinking water and environmental justice.
- Worked with Attorney General Nessel to achieve the largest settlement in Michigan's history for Flint's children and families, totaling \$600M in response to the Flint water crisis.

### ENSURING ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER DURING COVID-19

- Took strong steps to ensure thousands of working families in Michigan had access to clean water for hand washing and sanitation by signing executive orders and the Water Shut Off Protection Act that required the reconnection of water service where it had been previously shut off due to inability to pay.
- Launched the Water Utility Assistance Program, the largest investment in water assistance in Michigan history.

### INVESTING IN PURE MICHIGAN AND TOURISM

- Proposed investing \$400M to revitalize state and community parks, trails, and recreation facilities. This investment will help make public lands more accessible, support local economies, and help Michigan become a more attractive destination for tourism.

## INVESTING IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SPACES

- Launched MI Clean Water, a \$500 million drinking and wastewater infrastructure plan supporting 7,500 good-paying jobs to address high water rates, lead-laden water service lines, toxic contaminants like PFAS, sewers that can't meet demand, and failing septic systems. Proposed a \$200M expansion to MI Clean Water to help communities remove lead service lines.
- In addition to MI Clean Water, invested millions in drinking water, stormwater, and waste water facilities across the state supporting thousands of local jobs.
- Proposed Filter First, a \$55M investment in K-12 schools to ensure that children and school faculty and staff have access to safe drinking water.

## MAKING MICHIGAN CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2050

- Committed Michigan to the Paris Climate Agreement and joined the U.S. Climate Alliance.
- Launched the MI Healthy Climate Plan, a plan to move all sectors of our economy to carbon neutral by 2050 and ensures marginalized communities impacted by climate change will benefit from our energy transition.
- Deployed solar panels on state-owned lands and buildings and committed to powering state government with 100% renewable energy by 2025.

## DEFENDING THE GREAT LAKES

- Revoked and terminated the easement that allowed Enbridge Energy to run their dual oil pipelines through the Straits of Mackinac, while securing the state's energy needs.
- Deployed funds for a critical pinch point to keep dangerous, invasive carp out of the Great Lakes.
- Reduced agricultural pollution in the Great Lakes through the largest investment in state history, and increased funding to local conservation districts and farmers to implement conservation practices.